

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 251045 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2206

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 9285

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 25, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE

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TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 25.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT IN ALL FOUR REGIONS WITH A TOTAL OF 72 INCIDENTS REPORTED COUNTRYWIDE. CASUALTIES WERE: ARVN; 20 KIA, 105 WIA; VC/NVA; 77 KIA, 10 CAPTURED. MOST ACTIVE AREAS WERE CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE AND NORTHERN BINH DINH. A LATE REPORT INDICATES MG TOAN HAS ORDERED A CORPS- WIDE ALERT IN MR II. AS YET, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE EXTENSIVE ENEMY ARTILLERY FIRE NORTHWEST OF KONTUM. EARLY REPORTS FROM CANDEL SOURCES ARE THAT THE RESULT OF THE ICCS LOC NINH INVESTIGATION ON PRG CHARGES OF US BOMBING WILL BE A 2-2 SPLIT. HANOI PROPAGANDA IS CHARGING THAT THE GVN REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INVESTIGATION THOUGH THE EXACT OPPOSITE IS TRUE AND GVN REPS WERE STOPPED BY PRG. THE ICCS HAD A PLENARY SESSION IN WHICH THE ICCS CHOPPER SHOOTDOWN AT LAO BAO DISCUSSED AND A 2-2 SPLIT REPORT FORWARDED TO TPJMC. POLGARIANS REFUSED TO LAY BLAME ON PRG AS SESSION REACHED HEIGHTS OF ABSURDITY; THE NVA IS SHIFTING A REGIMENT TO BLOCK GROWING GVN PRESENCE ON NGHIA HANH- MINH LONG ROAD SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI. AN ADDITIONAL RF BATTALION IS EXPECTED IN CHUNONG THIEN TO COUNTER CONTINUING VC/ NVA PRESSURE THERE.

PART I. INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. ICCS V CANDEL TOLD CONSUL MORNING MAY 25 THAT MAY 24 MEETING ON ALLEGED US BOMBING OF NORTHERN LOC NINH HAD PRODUCED 2-2 DEADLOCK. WHILE NOT EXACTLY TELLING US EVERYTHING, CANDELS WERE CLEARLY IMPLYING THAT POLGARIANS WOULD FIND US GUILTY OF BOMBING, WHILE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS WOULD NOT. CANADIAN CHAIRMAN IS NOW CIRCULATING CHRONOLOGY OF INVESTIGATION TO CHIP' S, WHO WILL APPEND NATIONAL VIEWS. HE THOUGHT REPORT WOULD BE FORWARDED

MAY 26 TO CENTRAL ICCS. ANOTHER CANDEL COMMENTED THAT MEETING HAD BEEN DISTINGUISHED BY STRIKING RENEWAL OF POLGARIAN FAITH IN CREDIBILITY OF EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS.

2. SPECIAL TWO- HOUR ICCS PLENARY CONVENED MAY 24 TO CONSIDER INVESTIGATION REPORT OF LAO BAO HELICOPTER INCIDENT. HUNGDEL LED OFF WITH STATEMENT WHICH COVERED THE DOWNING OF HELICOPTER 006 BUT IGNORED CASE OF SECOND CHOPPER (115). ACCORDING TO HUNGDEL, THERE EXISTS " NO MATERIAL EVIDENCE" THAT 006 HAD
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BEEN HIT BY MISSILE OR GROUND FIRE. THEREFORE, POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENT CANNOT BE RULED OUT. HUNGDEL TERMED CHOPPER' S DEVIATION FROM COURSE AS " PRE- PLANNED AND DELIBERATE" AND BLAMED ACCIDENT ON THOSE WHO PLANNED DEVIATION. TESTIMONY OF PILOT (HELICOPTER 115) WAS REJECTED BY HUNGDEL BECAUSE OF ALLEGEDLY FALSE INFORMATION HE HAD GIVEN ORIGINALLY RE

LOCATION OF ACCIDENT. CANDEL SOURCES ALSO NOTED THAT HUNGDEL HINTED AT SIMILAR PLOT BEHIND HELICOPTERS DEVIATION FROM COURSE ON GROUNDS THAT AIR AMERICA ABLE TO LOCATE DOWNED HELICOPTER SO FAST ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE WHERE HELICOPTER WAS ACTUALLY GOING. COMMENT: HUNGDEL AMB ELABORATED ON POSSIBILITY OF SECRET RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT IN SUBSEQUENT PRESS MEETING CHARGING HE SUSPECTED CIA INVOLVEMENT. EMBASSY, IN ANSWER TO PRESS QUERY, QUICKLY DENIED ALLEGATION AS TOTAL FABRICATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IT WAS PRG, NOT AIR AMERICA, WHICH FIRST REPORTED LOCATION OF DOWNED CHOPPER. AIR AMERICA WAS UNABLE AT OUTSET TO DETERMINE LOCATION, AND COULD CONFIRM LOCATION ONLY WHEN FIRST ICCS INVESTIGATORS VIEWED SCENE THREE DAYS LATER. END COMMENT.

3. INDODEL COMMENTS WERE SHORTER, CONCLUDED THAT CHOPPER WAS SHOT DOWN, AND IN SLIGHTLY WAFFLED FASHION BLAMED PRG. POLDEL MIMICKED HUNGDEL IN PROCLAIMING THAT THERE WAS NO CLEAR EVIDENCE HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN. POLDEL SAID PILOTS HAD " FLAGRANTLY DISREGARDED THEIR DUTIES" AND BLAMED THEM FOR THE INCIDENT. POLES APPARENTLY AT LEAST ACKNOWLEDGED 115 RECEIVED PRG FIRE ON GROUND.

4. CANDEL ASSERTED THAT FACT HELICOPTER WAS OFF COURSE WAS NO RPT NO REASON FOR CHOPPER TO BE SHOT DOWN. IT IS CLEAR TO CANDEL THAT PRG IS UNWILLING AND/ OR UNABLE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SAFETY GUARANTEES BOTH IN AND OUT OF AIR CORRIDORS. CANDEL REFERRED TO INTERVIEWS WITH PRG PRISONERS WHO STATED THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO FIRE ON ICCS PLANES. CANDEL CONCLUDED THAT PRG DOES NOT EXERCISE CONTROL IN AREAS THEY CLAIM. IN ADDITION TO CRITICIZING LACK OF PRG COOPERATION, CANDEL ALSO REPORTED NVA INTERROGATIONS WHICH REVEALED THAT THEY WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH ICCS OR ICCS MARKING. CANDEL VIEWED HUNGDEL/ POLDEL POSITION IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT NEITHER DEL HAD EVER FOUND PRG GUILTY OF ANYTHING. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL CRIDIBILITY WAS, THEREFORE, MORE THAN EVER IN QUESTION. REFERRING TO STRENGTH OF EVIDENCE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HELICOPTER 006 HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AND HELICOPTER 115 SHOT AT BY PRG/ NVA FORCES, CANDEL CONCLUDED ITS STATEMENTS WITH SEVERAL BLUNT RHETORICAL QUESTIONS AIMED AT HUNGDEL/ POLDEL.

5. INDODEL THEN MADE STATEMENT FOR RECORD TO THE EFFECT THAT INDODEL RESERVING RIGHT TO TAKE ANY ACTION IT SAW FIT IN VIEW OF HELICOPTER INCIDENT. CANDEL SOURCES HAVE NO IDEAN WHAT ACTIONS INDODEL MAY BE CONTEMPLATING.

6. COMMISSION AGREED TO SEND ALL DOCUMENTS AND NATIONAL VIEWS TO TPJMC UNDER COVER OF LETTER TO BE DRAFTED BY CHAIRMAN AND PRESENTED AT NEXT PLENARY .

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PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 251045 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2207
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT

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PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

A PRELIMINARY ACCOUNT OF THE MAY 25 EETING OF THE CHIEFS OF
DELEGATION (WHO WERE, IN FACT REPRESENTED BY COLS VO DONG DIANG
AND NGUYEN TU DOA FOR THE PRG AND RVN DELEGATIONS, RESPECTIVELY)
INDICATES THAT THE PROCEEDINGS WERE RELATIVELY BRIEF AND
UNPRODUCTIVE. THERE WAS FURTHER DISCUSSION OF RELEASE OF MILITARY
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AND CIVILIAN PRISONERS AND OF DEPLOYMENT, BUT " NO MOVEMENT" ON EITHER ISSUE. THE RVN SOUGHT TO ENGAGE THE PRG IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE RVN " SEVEN POINTS" FIRST ADVANCED AT THE MAY 22 MEETING, BUT COL GIANG WAS REPORTEDLY " UNRESPONSIVE".

PART III: VC/ HANOI PROPAGANDA

THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, NHAN DAN, CHARGED IN A MAY 24 COMMENTARY THAT THE " SAIGON ADMINISTRATION " HAD REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 23 ICCS INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED US AIR ATTACKS IN THE LOC NINH AREA. NHAN DAN CLAIMED THAT THIS REFUSAL CAME AFTER THE GVN HAD " SOUGHT BY EVERY MEANS TO IMPEDE THIS INVESTIGATION" AND WAS BASED ON THE ARGUMENT THAT ITS PARTICIPATION WAS " AGAINST REGULATIONS." (COMMENT: THIS VERSION OF HISTORY FLIES IN THE FACE OF WHAT MEMBERS WERE TOLD BY VOA CORRESPONDENT PETER COLLINS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE ICCS INVESTIGATORS TO LOC NINH AND BY BG HIEP, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GVN TPJMC CONTINGENT (SEE SAIGON 9183). ACCORDING TO THEIR ACCOUNTS, THE VIET CONG INITIALLY ATTEMPTED TO KEEP GVN LIAISON OFFICERS OFF THE HELICOPTERS AT BIEN HOA. FAILING IN THIS, THE COMMUNISTS IN LOC NINH INFORMED THE GVN OFFICERS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY THE INVESTIGATORS TO THE SITES OF ALLEGED US VIOLATIONS. CANDEL ICCS PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY, BUT FINALLY CAPITULATED. (POLDEL/ HUNGDEL SUPPORTED VIET CONG'S REFUSAL.) CANDEL SAID THAT IT WOULD ADD LANGUAGE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION TO THE EFFECT THAT BY REFUSING TO ALLOW GVN OFFICERS TO ACCOMPANY ICCS, VIET CONG HAD VIOLATED AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.)

PART IV: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS HAS NOW CHARGED THAT AS OF 0600 HOURS MAY 24, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED 14,598 VIOLATIONS, DURING WHICH 20,644 COMMUNISTS WERE KILLED AND 215 CAPTURED. RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE 5,282 KILLED, 25,353 WOUNDED AND 1,321 MISSING IN ACTION. BESIDES, 890 CIVILIANS LOST THEIR LIVES, 2,474 WERE WOUNDED AND 1,200 ABDUCTED.

PART V: MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION: COMBAT REMAINED LIGHT WITH 13 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED, INCLUDING 11 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) (7 ARTILLERY, CONFIDENTIAL
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22 ROCKET AND 227 MORTAR ROUNDS) AND 2 HARASSMENTS. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. REGION-WIDE, CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 1 KIA, 1 MIA, 20 WIA; ENEMY 18 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,743 ROUNDS; 589 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,154 SOUTH.

2. THE ICCS HOI AN SUB- REGION TEAM ON MAY 21 INVESTIGATED A MAY 18 ROCKET ATTACK ON SON THANH VILLAGE IN QUE SON DISTRICT. LIEUTENANT COLONEL HADIAN, SENIOR INDODEL, TOLD POLOFF QUANG NAM THAT CANDEL AND INDODEL FILED A SEPARATE " OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSION" THAT A PRG CEASEFIRE VIOLATION HAD OCCURRED. POLDEL AND HUNGDEL CONCLUDED THE EVIDENCE WAS INSUFFICIENT AND USED EVERY TECHNICALITY TO AVOID FINDING AGAINST THE PRG.

3. IN ADDITION TO INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEACTIVATION OF 13 POPULAR FORCES (PF) PLATOONS IN QUANG NGAI (REF DANANG 542), MR 1 HEADQUARTERS HAD ORDERED A 300- MAN REDUCTION IN REGIONAL FORCES (RF) STRENGTH IN THAT PROVINCE BY THIS AUGUST.

4. IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE, 16 PF PLATOONS ARE TO BE CUT BY THE END OF THIS MONTH . POLOFF HUE REPORTS THAT PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL TON THAT KHIEM INTENDS TO DISCHARGE OLDER AND DISABLED MEN AND REGROUP THE MORE ABLE- BODIED FOR RETRAINING AND TRANSFER INTO RF OR ARVN UNITS.

5. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS MADE AVAILABLE TO POLOFF QUANG NGAI INDICATE THAT ONE BATTALION OF THE 141 ST NVA REGIMENT HAS BEEN ORDERED TO JOIN WITH OTHER ENEMY UNITS TO RESIST THE GROWING GVN PRESENCE ACCOMPANYING THE ROAD OPENING EFFORT ON THE NGHIA HANH- MINH LONG ROAD SOUTH OF QUANG NGAI AND TO PROTECT IMPORTANT COMMUNIST COMMUNICATIONS ROUTE FROM THE VALLEY INTO THE NGHIA HANH AND MO DUC DISTRICT LOWLANDS.

6. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH POLOFF HUE CONCERNING THE PUBLICALLY ANNOUNCED GVN INTENTION TO IMPLEMENT DECREE LAW 060 AND CLOSE OUT ACTIVITIES OF INELIGIBLE POLITICAL PARTIES, LEADERS OF THE VIETNAM NATIONALIST PARTY (VNQDD) AND THE REVOLUTIONARY AI VIET PARTY (RDV) CONTEND THEIR PARTIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE, WITH OR WITHOUT THE OUTWARD TRAPPINGS AND ABOVE OR UNDERGROUND AS NECESSARY.

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ACTION EA-14

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PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01

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O R 251045 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2208
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT

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PART VI: MR 2

1. SECURITY SITUATION: INCIDENT OF REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY
IN REGION II HAS CONTINUED AT SAME LOW LEVEL (10-12 INCIDENTS
PER DAY) FOR PAST WEEK. TOTAL OF 12 ACTIONS REPORTED IN LAST
24 HOUR PERIOD. ONE VNAF HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN BY VC
GROUND FIRE IN NORTHERN BINH DINH. REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES:
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VC: NINE KIA, SIX CAPTURED; RVNAF: SIX KIA, TEN WIA.

2. PHU YEN SECTOR REPORTS 14 FARMERS, WHO HAD BEEN ABDUCTED
BY VC DURING 1972 SPRING OFFENSIVE, ESCAPED FROM COMMUNISTS AND
MADE THEIR WAY TO RVNAF FORCES IN DONG XUAN DISTRICT MAY 23.
ESCAPEES CLAIMED THEY HAD BEEN USED BY CAPTORS AS LABORERS
AND PRODUCTION WORKERS IN VC WORK CAMP LOCATED IN KILO VALLEY OF
DONG
XUAN DISTRICT.

3. ICCS: POSSIBLY AS CALCULATED MOVE TO DEMONSTRATE POSSESSION
OF ROAD, PRG DROVE ICCS MEMBERS FROM BEN HET TO DAK TO MAY 20. TRIP
WAS OCCASIONED BY ARRIVAL OF ICCS FIXED- WING PORTER AIRCRAFT AT
DAK TO - A TEST FLIGHT TO SEE IF PORTERS COULD USE DAK TO. ICCS
TEAM AT BEN HET (REGION III) ENJOYING SOME FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT
NOW; PRG DRIVES THEM AROUND OCCASIONALLY IN THEIR SHINY JEEPS,
AND THEY CAN WALK ABOUT, EVEN OUT OF TOWN, ACCOMPANIED, OF COURSE.

4. MAJ GEN TOAN, MR II COMMANDER, HAS APPARENTLY SENT ORDERS TO ALL PROVINCES TO HOLD DEMONSTRATIONS DEMANDING THAT THE COMMUNISTS ABIDE BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THAT THE ICCS INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE POW' STILL HELD BY THE COMMUNISTS. PRESUMABLY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE INSTRUCTIONS, LARGE BUT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE ON MAY 24 IN NHA TRANG AND BAN ME THUOT.

PART VII: MR 3

1. THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 DURING THE PERIOD ENDING 0800 HOURS MAY 25. A TOTAL OF 19 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF FIVE HARASSING ATTACKS BY FIRE, TEN SMALL SIZE GROUND ATTACKS, THREE MINE INCIDENTS AND ONE SNIPING INCIDENT. CASUALTIES REPORTED IN THESE ACTIONS WERE ONE RVNAF KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED, AND TEN VC/ NVA KILLED. TON LE CHAN RANGER BASE CAMP TOOK 93 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR FIRE, BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED.

2. AT MEETING EVENING MAY 23, CU CHI ICCS TEAM HAD ACRIMONIOUS EXCHANGE OVER POLGARIAN BUGOUT FROM INCIDENT SITE WHICH HAD COME UNDER PRG ATTACK DURING TEAM INVESTIGATION (MAY 24 SITREP). CONGEN BIEN HOA REPORTS HUNGDEL CLAIMED THAT WHEN FIREFIGHT STARTED, INDODEL HAD EARERLY AGREED TO HIS SUGGESTION THAT THEY LEAVE ASAP;
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AT THIS POINT IN MEETING, INDODEL REPORTEDLY HAD TO BE PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED FROM ATTACKING HUNGDEL ACROSS TABLE. CU CHI TEAM RELATIONS ARE SAID TO BE IN DEPLORABLE STATE; INDONESIANS AND CANADIANS TALK TO EACH OTHER BUT NOT TO POLES AND HUNGARIANS, WHILE LATTER NOT ONLY DO NOT TALK TO INDONESIANS AND CANADIANS, NOT NOT TO EACH OTHER.

PART VIII: MR 4

1. FIGHTING IN MR IV MAY 24 REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY. YESTERDAY' S 28 REPORTED INCIDENTS INCLUDED NO GROUND ASSAULTS. SEVENTEEN OF THE INCIDENTS-- ALL ATTACKS BY FIRE AND HARASSMENTS-- TOOK PLACE IN THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, MAINLY IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE. FRIENDLY FORCES LOST 12 ILLED, 71 WOUNDED, AND TWO MISSING. COMMUNIST LOSSES WEE 40 ILLED AND THREE CAPTURED.

2. THE 491 ST RF BATTALION SUCCESSFULLY AMBUSHED A VC LOCAL FORCE UNIT FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KIEN THIEN DISTRICT TOWN, CHUONG THIEN, IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF MAY 23. THE RF GROUP KILLED 27 VC AND DID NOT LOSE A MAN.

3. CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF TRAN TIEN KHANG TOLD THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE MAY 23 THAT HE SOON EXPECTS

TO RECEIVE AN RF BATTALION FROM PHONG DINH TO REINFORCE TWO
RECENTLY ARRIVED RANGER BATTALIONS. KHANG ALSO SAID HE PLANS TO
CONSOLIDATE ABOUT SIX SMALL OUTPOSTS ALONG HIGHWAY 31 NEAR THE
PHONG DINH BORDER INTO LARGER, STRONGER POSTS. THE VC OVERRAN ONE
OF THESE SMALL OUTPOSTS MAY 22. THE VC/NVA, PROBABLY SEEKING TO
EXPAND THEIR AREA OF CONTROL, HAVE BEEN PUSHING CHUONG THIEN
FOR TWO WEEKS WITH HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE AND SHARP GROUND ATTACKS
AGAINST RATHER INEFFECTIVE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION OPPOSITION.

LATE REPORT: PHU YEN SECTOR HQS REPORTED 25 MAY THAT MR-2 HAS BEEN
PLACED ON FULL RED ALERT. MR 2 HEADQUARTERS ORDERED ALL LOC'S
FULLY PROTECTED. THERE, AS YET, UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ARVN UNITS
WEST AND NORTH OF KONTUM CITY ARE UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM NVA
ARTILLERY.
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON09285
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajscp.tel
Line Count: 455
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 9
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980304
Subject: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, MAY 25, 1973
TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS, MILI, PINT
To: BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
EA
JAKARTA
OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC

VIENTIANE

WARSAW

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005